

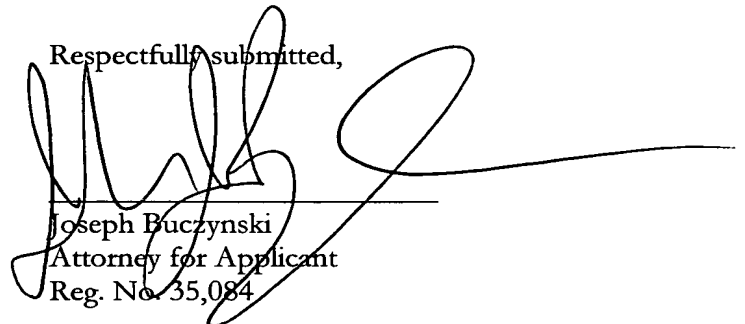
All documents, with the exception of French Patent FR2683326, are in English and require no statement of relevance. Regarding French Patent FR2683326, an English abstract is provided as a brief statement of relevance to the above identified Application as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. Also, since the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to

issuance of a first Office Action on the merits, no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b) is required.

The Examiner is requested to consider the attached documents in connection with the above-identified application and to return a copy of Form PTO-1449 to the Applicants with the Examiner's initials in the spaces provided.

Submission of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission by the Applicants as to the materiality of the attached documents to the application, nor do the Applicants waive any right to challenge the validity of the documents as prior art should such action be deemed appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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